

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method of splicing optical fibers is provided to reduce the splicing loss of the first and second optical fibers having different MFDs from each other. In a pre-fusion heating step, the MFD at the adjacent end face of the optical
5 fiber having larger MFD is enlarged by heating a portion including the adjacent end face thereof so as to diffuse a dopant. After the pre-fusion heating step, fusion-splicing of the first and the second optical fibers is performed. Thereafter, during the post-fusion heating step, the dopant is diffused by heating a portion including the fusion-spliced part between the
10 first and the second optical fibers.

10026445-122701